

Message Text

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ACTION SR-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 ORM-01 AID-05 OIC-02 L-02 AF-04

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9520

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FOR KELLOGG S/R FROM DALE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: REFUGEE AND MIGRATION ACTIVITIES

1. IN WAKE RECENT MEETINGS UNHCR AND ICEM GOVERNING BODIES CONSIDER IT USEFUL AND TIMELY TO REVIEW CERTAIN MATTERS OF SIGNIFICANCE RELATING THESE ORGANIZATIONS.

2. BOTH DCM AND I FOLLOW WITH CLOSE INTEREST THE DIVERSE ACTIVITIES OF MISSION'S RMRC SECTION AND WE RECOGNIZE THE GREAT IMPORTANCE AND IMPACT OF HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS OF UNHCR, ICEM, AS WELL AS USRP, ON LIVES SO MANY UPROOTED PEOPLE THROUGHOUT WORLD, AND EFFECTS WHICH THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE ON BOTH FOREIGN RELATIONS AND DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF OUR COUNTRY.

3. WAS PLEASED MAKE RESIDENCE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR RECAPTION DURING UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. CONSIDER THAT PARTICULAR REPRESENTATION EXERCISE TO HAVE BEEN BOTH PLEASANT AND USEFUL. YOUR ELECTION TO PRESIDE OVER UNHCR MEETING WAS NOTABLE HONOR FOR ALL OF US. WE WERE ESPECIALLY GRATIFIED OVER SKILLFUL WAY YOU HANDLED SENSITIVE CYPRUS ISSUE WHICH PROMPTED ACrimonious EXCHANGE BETWEEN DELEGATES OF CYPRUS,

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GREECE AND TURKEY; AND KURDISH REFUGEE PROBLEM

WHICH EXCITED THE DELEGATES OF IRAN AND IRAQ.

4. RESPECT UNHCR, WE CONVINCED THAT LEGAL AND POLICIAL PROTECTION OF REFUGEES SHOULD BE PRINCIPAL FUNCTION OF THAT OFFICE. BELIEVE WE (USG) SHOULD CONTINUE STRESS THIS POINT AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY. AS REGARDS UNHCR MATERIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MANDATE REFUGEES, PROGRAM SEEMS SOUND IN CONCEPT, BALANCED, AND WELL ADMINSTERED. BELIEVE CURRENT LEVEL OF OUR SUPPORT FOR THAT PROGRAM, WHILE ONLY TEN PERCENT OF TOTAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS, IS ADEQUATE AND ABOUT WHAT HCR HAS LEARNED TO EXPECT FROM USG. I FIND IT SIGNIFICANT THAT 76 NATIONS ARE CONTRIBUTING ON VOLUNTARY BASIS TO UNHCR REGULAR PROGRAM. THIS SPEAKS WELL FOR UNHCR FUND RAISING EFFORTS. APAR REGULAR PROGRAM, UNHCR SPECIAL EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES SUCH AS THOSE IN CYPRUS, SUDAN AND SUB-CONTINENT OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE AND WORTHY OF USG SUPPORT. THIS CONNECTION, HOWEVER, WOULD INVITE YOUR ATTENTION TO PLANNED STRENGTHENING AND BUILD-UP OF UNDRO. VIEW THIS DEVELOPEMENT, UN SEC GEN MAY IN FUTURE CONSIDER UTILIZATION UNDRO RATHER THAN UNHCR IN CERTAIN EMERGENCY RELIEF SITUATIONS DEPENDING OF COURSE ON CIRCUMSTANCES. ALSO WISH TO REFER TO GROWING PROBLEM OF ESTIMATED 100,000 DE FACTO REFUGEES IN EUROPE WHICH PROMISES REQUIRE ATTENTION FROM UNHCR AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN YEAR AHEAD.

5. RESPECT ICEM, WE FULLY APPRECIATE VALUE OF THAT ORGANIZATION ESPECIALLY FOR PURPOSE REFUGEE RE-SETTLEMENT. CONSIDER ICEM DESERVING OF SONTINUED SUPPORT FROM USG. HOWEVER, VIEW PRESIDENT FORD'S OVER-ALL ECONOMY DRIVE AND IMPENDING MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, WE REHAIN OF OPINION THAT NON-UN AGENCY LIKE ICEM WHICH HEAVILY SUBSIDIZED BY USG SHOULD ALSO BE GIVEN A NEW LOOK TO DETERMINE WHETHER ORGANIZATION OPERATING EFFECTIVELY IN TUNE WITH THE TIMES, AND MORE PARTICULARLY WHETHER WE RECEIVING BEST POSSIBLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VALUE FOR OUR HEAVY FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN TERMS US INTERESTS. AS YOU AWARE, DELEGATES FROM CERTAIN OTHER GOVERNMENTS INDICATED INTEREST IN COMPLETE REVIEW OF ICEM'S ACTIVITIES, STRUCTURE AND FINANCING DURING RECENT SESSION ICEM COUNCIL. APPEARS LIKELY THAT PRESSURE WILL MOUNT FOR FULL REVIEW OF ORGANIZATION. WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED BY COUNCIL TO STUDY POLICY, PROGRAM AND FINANCIAL

ASPECTS OF ICEM'S LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM IS STEP IN
RIGHT DIRECTION.

REGARDING ICEM'S LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM, WE FULLY
SUPPORT DEPARTMENT'S DECISION TO REDUCE USG SUPPORT TO
\$750,000 IN CY 1975 AND BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONSIDER
FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL CUT IN 1976. CONSIDER IT
INDEFENSIBLE THAT USG SHOULD CONTINUE CONTRIBUTING
IN EXCESS OF 50 PERCENT OF GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS
IN THIS PROGRAM WHEN SEVERAL GOVERNMENTS
INCLUDING SOME IN LATIN AMERICA WHICH BENEFITS
DIRECTLY FROM PROGRAM CONTRIBUTE LITTLE OR NOTHING
TO IT. GENERAL APATHY TOWARD THIS PROGRAM DISPLAYED
BY LATIN AMERICAN DELEGATIONS AT RECENT ICEM COUNCIL
DID NOT GO UNNOTICED. CONVERSELY, INTERESTING TO
NOTE THAT GREAT CONCERN FOR THIS PROGRAM EXPRESSED
BY ICEM DIRECTOR. ICEM ADMINISTRATION SEEMS
INCLINED PROMOTE PROGRAMMING LEAVING MEMBER GOVERN-
MENTS UNDER PRESSURE TO PROVIDE FINANCING. APPEARS
TAIL IS TENDING TO WAG THE DOG.

6. WITH VIEW ANY RE-ASSESSMENT OF ICEM, WHETHER
LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM OR COMPLETE ORGANIZATION,
BELIEVE USG SHOULD ASSUME BASIC POSITION THAT THIS
IN INTERGOVERNMENTAL INSTRUMENT EXISTING FOR
PURPOSE SERVING INTERESTS OF MEMBERS GOVERNMENTS.
ACCORDINGLY, FEEL WE SHOULD AIM TO LIMIT ICEM TO THOSE
ACTIVITIES REQUESTED BY MEMBER GOVERNMENT(S), OR
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS UNHCR, WHICH
APPROVED BY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AND FOR WHICH
FINANCING ASSURED. ALSO SEEMS ADVISABLE TO ENCOURAGE
TAILORING OF STAFF AND STRUCTURE TO AVAILABLE
RESOURCES.

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7. I OFFER THESE GENERAL OBSERVATIONS WITH SOLE
INTENTION OF BEING CONSTRUCTIVE AND HELPFUL. IT IS
MY AIM TO ACHIEVE GREATER EFFICIENCY IN FAMILY OF
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS GENEVA, OR AT
LEAST TO INCREASE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IN TERMS
US INTERESTS. PLEASE BE ASSURED MY CONTINUED
INTEREST AND SUPPORT. DALE

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